

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Paper No.

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In re Application of

SPECIAL PROGRAMS OFFICE

Renwick et al.

DECISION GRANTING PATENTS

Application No. 09/405,237 PETITION

Filed: September 23, 1999

Attorney Docket No. IBNR-014

This is a decision on the petition filed October 15, 1999 under 37 CFR 1.53(b), which is being treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.10(c) requesting that the above-identified application be accorded a filing date of September 23, 1999 rather than the

presently accorded filing date of September 24, 1999.

The petition is granted.

As the instant application papers were received at the PTO before the "date-in" on Express Mail Label No. EL024412563US, the papers were given the date of receipt. While petitioner has not proffered any USPS evidence to clearly establish that the date accorded these papers should be September 23, 1999, the attached printout of a query of the USPS Express Mail Information Database shows that the package in question was accepted at 4:45 PM on the date in quesiton. To expedite further processing, it is presumed, absent witten evidence to the contrary, that acceptance time is prior to the last scheduled pick-up for that date.

This provisional application is being forwarded to the Office of Initial Patent Examination (OIPE), Customer Corrections, for further processing with a filing date of September 23, 1999.

Telephone inquiries specific to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (703) 305-1820. Inquiries related to OIPE processing/should be directed to OIPE at (703) 308-1202.

Han Deer Brian Hearn

Petitions Examiner Office of Petitions

Office of the Deputy Commissioner

for Patent Examination Policy

Enclosure: Express Mail Database Printout